



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/715,213 | 11/18/2003 | Heather Allison Schlegel | 06975-380001 / Communicat | 2242 |
| 26171 7590 10/22/2007 FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022 | | | EXAMINER SHRESTHA, KIRAN K | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2173 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 10/22/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,213

Applicant(s)

SCHLEGEL ET AL.

Examiner

Kiran K. Shrestha

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>September 2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on July 30, 2007. The amendment cancelled claims 1-14 and amended 15, 16, and 18-28 and also added new claims 29-44. Thus, claims 15-44 are currently pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 2173

4. Claims 15-35 and 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Maehiro et al.** (US7058690B2) hereinafter referred to as **Maehiro**.

Claim 15: Maehiro discloses a method for enabling communications by a user having multiple identities from a single communications service, the method comprising: displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user, each list including other identities with whom the user communicates using the identity to which the list corresponds (Fig. 6, item 602: "Online Friends 1": Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki and "Online Friends 2": Manami, etc.); using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several identities of the user, of a particular source identity from which to initiate an electronic communication (Fig 6, items 608, 603 "online friends Junko"); using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source identity selected by the user, of another identity to whom to send the electronic communication (col. 11, Lines 51-54 and Fig 6, items 608, 603 "online friends Junko"); and sending the electronic communication to the other identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the other identity as being sent from the particular source identity selected by the user (col. 11, Lines 51-54 and Fig 6, items 603, 604, and at the bottom of the fig. 6 status indicator "e-mail 1" and "message 1").

Claim 16: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple identities of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server (col. 4, lines 53-60).

Art Unit: 2173

Claim 17: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential identities to which a link from the multiple identities may be created, wherein the list of potential identities is created based on relationships between the potential identities (col. 21, lines 4-8) and the multiple identities known to exist within the remote server (col. 1, lines 23-33).

Claim 18: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the other identity and addressed to the particular source identity (col. 12, lines 52-56 and fig. 7).

Claim 19: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising: logging on to the single communications service using a first identity of the user that differs from the particular source identity (col. 11, lines 42-48); and in response to logging on to the communications service using the first identity of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source identity (col. 11, lines 45-50).

Claim 20: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying the several identities of the user in the single graphical user interface (fig. 6, items: 606 and 607).

Art Unit: 2173

Claim 21: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying the lists other identities associated with each of the several identities in the single graphical user interface (fig. 6, item 606: "Online Friends 1": Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki)

Claim 22: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of a new identity to the list for one of the several identities of the user, adding the new identity to the lists for the other of the several identities of the user (col. 4, lines 52-57 and col. 5, lines 1-12).

Claim 23: Maehiro discloses a graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable multiple identities of a user from a single electronic communication service, and to make perceivable one or more buddy lists that each have one or more constituent buddies and that each are associated with one of the multiple identities of the user (Fig. 6, item 602: "Online Friends 1": Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki and "Online Friends 2": Manami, etc.); and a visual indicator that is configured to display the current logon status of the buddies from the buddy lists of the multiple identities of the user (col. 8, lines 12-17 and fig. 6, item 606); and wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a first identity of the multiple identities of the user is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (fig. 6, items 608 and 603), and wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a second identity of the multiple identities of the user also is

Art Unit: 2173

selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (fig. 6, item 606: Akiko).

Claim 24: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities of the user (fig. 6, item 609 "ID 01234567").

Claim 25: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all of the multiple identities of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple identities of the user (col. 12, lines 34-36).

Claim 26: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all of the multiple identities of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple identities of the user (col. 10, lines 56-61 and fig. 6, Akiko and all of the friends list under Akiko are sign on).

Claim 27: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple identities of the user (col. 13, lines 54-59).

Art Unit: 2173

Claim 28: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple identities of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other identities of the user (fig. 14, item 1403).

Claim 29: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured to: enable the user to select a particular list for a particular one of the several identities of the user (fig. 6, item 608 "Junko"); and in response to a selection by the user of the particular list for the particular identity, display the particular list for the particular identity selected by the user (fig. 6, item 608 "FFXI").

Claim 30: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user comprises concurrently displaying lists for each Of at least two identities of the user (fig. 6, item 606 "Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki, Junko, Miyuki, Manami" and item 607 "Yumiko, Hiroshi").

Claim 31: Maehiro discloses a method for linking multiple identities of a user from a single communications service, the method comprising: for a user of a single communications service having multiple identities for use in communicating with other

Art Unit: 2173

users within the single communications service, authenticating a first identity of the user, the first identity of the user (fig. 6, MASTER ACCOUNT= maehiro) having a first buddy list that includes identities associated with one or more other users (fig. 6, Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki, Junko, Miyuki, etc.) and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the first buddy list using the first identity of the user (fig. 6, MASTER ACCOUNT= maehiro); authenticating a second identity of the user, the second identity of the user (fig. 12, MASTER ACCOUNT= junko) having a second buddy list that includes identities associated with one or more other users (fig. 12, Junko, Naoki) and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the second buddy list using the second identity of the user (fig. 12, MASTER ACCOUNT= junko); creating an association between the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user, wherein the association between the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user in response to authentication of both the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first buddy list corresponding to the first identity of the user and the second buddy list corresponding to the second identity of the user such that the user interacts with the first buddy list to communicate with other users using the first identity of the user and the user interacts with the second buddy list to communicate with other users using the second identity of the user (fig. 6 and fig. 12; Naoki is on both first and second identity of user with the buddy lists. Once both first "maehiro" and second

Art Unit: 2173

“junko” logged on to a single communication system “Naoki” will be seen by the both MASTER ACCOUNT).

Claim 32: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 wherein: authenticating the first identity includes using a first password to authenticate the first identity (fig. 6, MASTER ACCOUNT= maehiro); and authenticating the second identity includes using a second password to authenticate the second identity (fig. 12, MASTER ACCOUNT=junko).

Claim 33: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are the same (col. 11, lines 30-35).

Claim 34: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are different (col. 8, lines 11-15).

Claim 35: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 wherein: authenticating the first identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first identity (fig. 13, item 1302; “MASTER ACCOUNT” id= maehiro); and authenticating the second identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second identity (fig. 13, item 1302; “SUB-ACCOUNT” id=Akiko)

Claim 40: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 wherein the first identity is a part of a first domain and the second identity is a part of a second domain that differs

Art Unit: 2173

from the first domain (Col. 2, Lines 23-25; "First client system" and "second client system").

Claim 41: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 further comprising setting preferences for the first identity, wherein setting the preferences for the first identity also sets the preferences for the second identity (fig. 6 and col. 10, Lines 58-61).

Claim 42: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 further comprising: setting first preferences for the first identity; and setting second preferences for the second identity (fig. 6 and col. 10, Lines 58-61).

Claim 43: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 wherein the first buddy list and the second buddy list include one or more common buddies listed on both the first buddy list and the second buddy list (Naoki on both Fig. 6 and Fig. 12).

Claim 44: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 wherein the single communications service enables linking multiple identities within the single communications service so as to enable presence of one to be reflected based on a login of another of the multiple identities (Fig. 6, Col. 12, Lines 34-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maehiro** (US7058690B2).

Claim 36: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 above, **Maehiro** does not teach “creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity”. However, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known within the computing arts to include one-way link (i.e. one-way link, star-link, bi-directional-link, mesh-link, etc.) in order to configure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a one-way link configuration in **Maehiro**. One would have been motivated to do so in order to association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

Claim 37: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 above, **Maehiro** does not teach “creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the first

Art Unit: 2173

identity and the second identity". However, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known within the computing arts to include bi-directional-link (i.e. one-way link, star-link, bi-directional-link, mesh-link, etc.) in order to configure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a bi-directional-link configuration in **Maehiro**. One would have been motivated to do so in order to association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

Claim 38: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 above, **Maehiro** does not teach "creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity". However, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known within the computing arts to include star-link (i.e. one-way link, star-link, bi-directional-link, mesh-link, etc.) in order to configure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a star-link configuration in **Maehiro**. One would have been motivated to do so in order to association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

Claim 39: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 31 above, **Maehiro** does not teach "creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity". However, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known within the computing arts to include mesh-link (i.e. one-way link, star-link, bi-directional-link,

Art Unit: 2173

mesh-link, etc.) in order to configure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a mesh-link configuration in Maehiro. One would have been motivated to do so in order to association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on July 30, 2007, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the prior art does not teach or suggest "a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of a user". In contrast to the applicant's argument, Maehiro does teach a single graphical user interface with a list for each of several identities of a user (fig. 6, "MASTER ACCOUNT= maehiro"; item 602: "Online Friends 1": Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki and "Online Friends 2": Manami, etc. and fig. 12, "MASTER ACCOUNT= junko"; items: Junko, Naoki).

With regards to claims 16-28, which depend either directly or indirectly upon rejected claim 15, and are rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- a. Auerbach et al. (US 6549937): This reference teaches multi-protocol communication in the computer network has a user interface layer with a common data structure to permit instant messaging communication with multiple service providers that each have different communication protocols.
 - b. Appelman et al. (US 6912564): This reference teaches automatically configuring instant messaging communication between an intended recipient of an e-mail message and the sender of the e-mail message.
 - c. Doss et al. (US 7035865): This reference teaches enhances and automates status messages.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2173

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

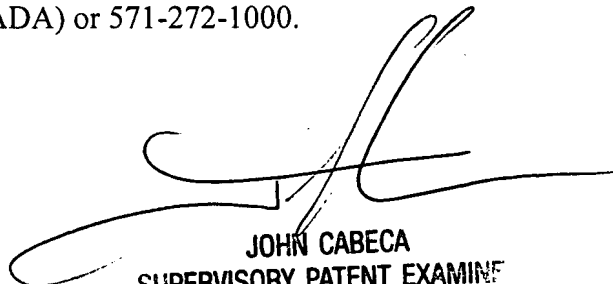
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kiran K. Shrestha whose telephone number is 571-270-1691. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri (Alt. Fri Off) 0700-1630 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca, can be reached on (571) 272-4048 Art Unit 2173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

K-S.
KKS

October 10, 2007



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100